

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /058 W

----- 003790

R 161740Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 313

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1548

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EC

REFS: (A) LUXEMBOURG 31, (B) BRUSSELS 317, (C) PARIS 1041,
(D) EC BRUSSELS 138, (E) 75 EC BRUSSELS 11180

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO THE DCM OF THE SPANISH MISSION TO THE EC, SPAIN NOW CONSIDERS THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EC HAVE ENTRED AN ENTIRELY NEW PHASE WITH MEMBER-SHIP SPAIN'S ULTIMATE GOAL. IT IS, THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SPAIN TO RENEW THE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC ON THE SAME BASIS AS BEFORE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME BEFORE MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN AND HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY TO BROADEN SPAIN'S EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH THE EC TO INCLUDE THE THREE NEW MEMBERS AND PERHAPS ALSO MEGOTIATE ON CERTAIN COMMERCIAL MATTERS. ANY THING ALONG THESE LINES, HOWEVER, WOULD CLEARLY HAVE TO E DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF A RECOGNITION OF SPAIN'S ULTIMATE MEMBER-SHIP ASPIRATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE DCM DISCUSSED WITH IS COUNTERPART AT THE SPANISH MISSION TO THE EC FOURNIER-BEMEJO, CURRENT SPANISH THINKING ABOUT RESUMPTION OF THE SUSPENDED TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND SPAIN'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY. ACCORDING TO FOURNIER-BERMEJO, THE SPANISH POSITION HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLLY DEFINED AND WILL NOT BE UNTIL FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA COMPLETES HIS TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS-- PROBABLY NOT UNTIL THE END OF MARCH OR THE BEGINNING APRIL. FOURNIER-BERMEJO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE BROAD OUTLINES OF SPANISH POLICY ARE ALREADY CLEAR. THE SITUATION HAS ENTIRELY CHANGED SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH AND SPAIN IS NOW CLEARLY INTERESTED IN A TOTALLY NEW ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY, ULTIMATELY AIMED AT FULL MEMBERSHIP.

3. ACCORDING TO FOURNIER-BERMEJO IT IS THEREFORE NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR SPAIN TO RENEW THE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SAME BASIS AS BEFORE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EC'S GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND SPAIN WAS CONSIDERED IN THE SAME FRAMEWORK AS OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED BETWEEN THE EC AND SPAIN THEY WILL HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SPAIN'S EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP.

4. FOURNIER-BERMEJO DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS WERE VERY CLOSE TO CONCLUSION WHEN THEY WERE BROKEN OFF. HE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT ONE OBJECTIVE OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF THE 1970 EC-SPANISH AGREEMENT. HE SAID THIS WAS STILL A VALID OBJECTIVE. HE DID NOT THEREFORE RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF THE CHARACTER OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS CHANGED SOMEWHAT, TO INDICATE THAT WHAT IS BEING SOUGHT IS A HARMONIZATION OF EC AND SPANISH POLICIES AS AN INITIAL STEPS TOWARDS EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP, SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO THE ALMOST-REACHED AGREEMENT COULD IN FACT BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. FOURNIER-BERMEJO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE INITIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVE TOWARDS IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE COMMUNITY WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COME FROM EITHER SIDE ALONE BUT WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE NEGOTIATED. FOR WAMPLE, HE HOPED THAT SPAIN WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH THE COUNCIL ON THE WORDING OF ANY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE REOPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS. SPAIN WOULD BE UNHAPPY WITH A COUNCIL DECISION WHICH SIMPLY STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED SITUATION

IN SPAIN IT WAS NOW POSSIBLE TO RENEW THE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, SPAIN WOULD CLEARLY SAY NO TO NEGOTIATIONS. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK LANGUAGE INDICATING THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS NOW PREPARED TO ENTER AN ENTIRELY NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH SPAIN.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, FOUNIER-BERMEJO SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS CRITICAL TO SPAIN THAT EC MEMBERSHIP PRECEDE MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. HE BELIEVES THAT IF THE NATO COUNCIL DECIDED TO ASK SPAIN TO ENTER INTO SOME SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT LEADING TO NATO MEMBERSHIP BEFORE EC MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS WERE VERY FAR ALONG HE IMAGINES HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT.

7. SIMILARLY, FOURNIER-BERMEJO IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT GREECE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ENTER THE EC BEFORE SPAIN. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS VIEW SPAIN IS A BETTER CANDIDATE, BASING HIS ARGUMENT MAINLY ON SPAIN'S LARGER MARKET. HE NOTED THAT BECAUSE SPAIN'S ECONOMY IS MORE INDUSTRIAL THAN GREECE'S, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SPAIN INITIALLY WITH MORE PROTECTION THAN GREECE, BUT HE ARGUED THAT IN OTHER WAYS SPANISH MEMBERSHIP MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED MORE EASILY THAN GREECE'S. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FORMULA EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY THE EC FOR HANDLING GREECE COULD SERVE AS A PRECEDENT FOR THE WAY THE COMMUNITY MIGHT TREAT SPAIN'S APPLICATION.

8. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, FOURNIER-BERMEJO SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A DEFINITIVE POSITION ON WHETHER SPAIN WOULD APPLY DIRECTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR MEMBERSHIP OR MOVE VIA AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE FEELS THAT THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS OF GREECE AND TURKEY, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE NOT WELL TAILORED TO SPAIN'S NEEDS AND HE BELIEVES SPAIN WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY AN APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. HE NOTED, AND WE CONCURRED, THAT THIS APPEARS TO BE THE VIEW WIDELY HELD IN COMMISSION CIRCLES.

9. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF HIS PERIPATETIC FOREIGN MINISTER, FOURNIER-BERMEJO NOTED THAT HE IS SCHEDULED TO COME TO BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 16-17. HE WILL SEE THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, NATO SEC GEN LUNS, EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES. BY EARLY APRIL HE WILL ALSO HAVE VISITED THE REMAINING FIVE EC

CAPITALS BUT THE DATES ARE NOT FIXED.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU00475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760018-0588
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760151/aaaabsty.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LUXEMBOURG 31, 76 BRUSSELS 317, 76 PARIS 1041
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND THE EC
TAGS: PFOR, SP, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006